

WELCOME

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It's a pleasure to welcome you on behalf of Rockwell International and the Science Center to this symposium. We're very happy to join with Dr. Ed VanReuth and Dr. Mike Buckley in sponsoring this symposium.

Nondestructive evaluation or nondestructive testing, as some of you would call it, is a fantastically important subject to us, both to the company and we believe as a country. We're performing a little experiment with NASA and the Soviet Union today, and that little program has a lot of dependence on nondestructive evaluation.

I guess all I'd like to say this morning other than welcoming you is that in my travels, which I do quite a bit of, I find that the country is really getting a lot of competition these days from our foreign brothers. Productivity is the key word these days. You probably heard a lot of it from your superiors all the way up to our President, and I think there isn't one subject that can affect productivity as much as the one that you people, you experts, will be talking about here today.

From the materials conservation viewpoint, from the saving of man hours, from energy conservation, nondestructive evaluation is across the board an important subject, and I look forward to great things out of this program. I believe last year when we were here that I had a similar message. I can't say it strongly enough--that to keep our country competitive with all those whom we are running into these days, I think productivity has to be our answer. We can't always compete in the labor market, we are even now having some problems on the materials market, but productivity is our answer.

I think NDE is a major contributor to making us the world leaders that we want to continue to be, and I think you people gathered here and the colleagues that you represent across the country are the ones that are going to bring that about. So, I'm very happy to be a part of this. I wish you a very successful symposium and continued progress in this most important field.

Thank you.